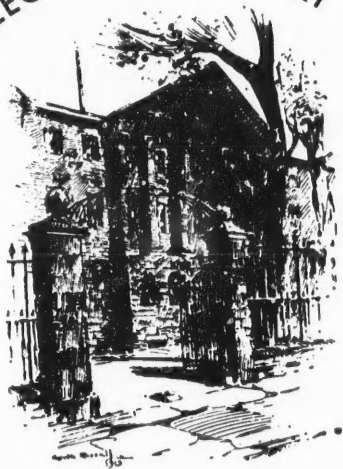


NOVA SCOTIA
LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY



PROVINCE HOUSE

BRIEF REMARKS
ON
MISSIONS TO POLYNESIA.

To no part of the heathen world since the days of the first heralds of the cross, have missionary enterprises been more successful, than to Polynesia; the history of which, at the same time that it gives ample testimony to the sufficiency and remedial efficacy of the gospel to raise man from his fallen state of degradation and misery, and to restore him to virtue, holiness, and to God; also, gives the most satisfactory and complete refutation to all the subtle arguments of Infidels, by which, they in maligning the gospel, endeavour to show that it is insufficient to raise man from his fallen state, and to civilize, moralize, and bless him. And it is worthy of remark, that it was at a time when bold daring Infidels, especially on the Continent of Europe, were raising their blaspheming tongues against God and the holy doctrines of the cross, (to which they were indebted for many of the blessings which they enjoyed,) that it pleased God to give wonderful success to the preaching of the gospel by His servants among the barbarous natives of Eastern Polynesia, who were thereby blessed in all their civil, and spiritual relations. And thus, by the elevation and salvation of one of the most savage and degraded portions of the human family, by the preaching of the gospel, (which no other means could effect,) God gave such a rebuke to Infidels and all unbelievers, as should forever suffice to shut their mouths in silence before the glorious triumphs of the gospel.

The beautiful islands of the Pacific were not discovered, till the latter part of the last century. Captain Wallis of his majesty's ship Dolphin, discovered the island of Tahiti in the year 1767, as he was directing his way across the comparatively, untraversed waters of the Pacific; and he with no small joy took possession of it in the name of king George III, and raised over it that flag, which has braved the battle & breeze for more than 300 years. But the missionaries of the cross subsequently, took possession of it in the name of a greater king,—even king Jesus; and after a mighty struggle with the great enemy of souls, by the help of the Lord, drove him from his fortified possessions, with a shout of triumphant victory, and raised over his citadel, powerfully fortified against Zions' king, the banner of the cross, which has for nearly two thousand years braved all the storms of earth and hell. When Captain Wallis returned to Britain, and made known his discoveries in the Pacific, there was much interest awakened in the minds of many persons about this newly discovered portion of the globe, especially among savans; which, led to the appointment of Captain Cook to convey astronomers and other scientific men thither; which enterprise, resulted in the discovery of many new islands of the Pacific, by Captain Cook, among which were the Sandwich Islands, where he was killed in a quarrel with the natives in the year 1797. These late discoveries, which took place according to the purpose and providence of God, opened up new doors for the spread of the gospel in this portion of the heathen world, and brought to light many astounding facts, relative to the awfully degraded condition of the natives of these fair blooming isles, whose rich fruitful hills, and Eden vales, embellished by the finger of God with all that is truly attractive

in senery and rich in verdure, regaled the senses of the anxious mariner, on his first approach to their shores;—man only remaining unlovely—vile and degraded—a brutish cannibal; which circumstance, when first published in the Christian world, was considered incredible. But, tho' the natives were thus found to be degraded and brutalized, by their horrid rites and savage practices, yet there was much in them to excite interest on their behalf in the minds of their new visitors.— Their countenances, for the most part, are open and prepossessing, having little in common with those of the African, but often bearing a strong resemblance to those of the European; and their intellectual faculties are not naturally inferior to those of the inhabitants of other parts of the world. Their visages present every variety of shade, from a light brown, or copper colour, to a dark brown, or olive, and sometimes black. Those of the former colour inhabit Eastern Polynesia, and those of the latter Western Polynesia. There can be little doubt, that all the eastern islands of Polynesia were peopled from Asia; but the origin of the other race who inhabit the western islands of the Pacific, is enveloped in greater obscurity. The former race is termed Malayo-Polynesians, and the latter Papuans, who appear to be the real Aborigines of the Pacific Ocean. This race inhabit the Feejee Islands, Loyalty Islands, New Caledonia, New Hebrides, the populous island of New Guinea, and other islands of less importance. The marks of distinction between the Malayo-Polynesians, and the Papuans, begin to appear at the Feejee Islands, about 400 miles from the New Hebrides; altho', the natives of the Loyalty Islands—Maree, Lifu, and Uea; and also, New Caledonia, manifest nearly the same proximity to the Malayo-Polynesians as the Feejeeans, especially in the light colour of their skin. The distinction however, between the two races who people Polynesia,—in their language, stature, and personal appearance, is quite manifest at the New Hebrides. Of the Malayo-Polynesians, the natives of the Marquesas Islands are the most perfect models of beauty; and of the Papuans, the natives of Vate in the New Hebrides, who are inveterate cannibals. The Vateans also, follow the inhuman practice of diminishing the number of their children, by burying them alive, when they become any cumbrance to their wretched down-trodden mothers. That a million of human beings thus degraded and ruined without the gospel—enveloped in thick darkness—sitting in the region and shadow of death, should awaken much sympathy on their behalf in the hearts of many British Christians soon after they were discovered, with an ardent desire to send them the gospel—the only remedy for fallen humanity, is no marvel. About this time, the Lord put it into the hearts of several of His servants, to care for the perishing heathen, among whom was the Rev. Melville Horne, who published a series of letters on the subject of missions, in the Evangelical Magazine, towards the end of the last century, which led to the formation of the London Missionary Society; whose first noble work in the cause of foreign missions, was the sending of the missionary ship Duff with a band of missionaries to Tahiti in the South Seas; who after their arrival there, laboured for a season under many discouragements & persecutions, so that several of them left the island. But after a long season of prayer and perseverance in the good work, God heard the prayers of His faithful servants who remained on the island, and the Holy Spirit was poured out from on high, and many were turned to the Lord; so that henceforth from Tahiti sounded out the word of the Lord to many other islands of Eastern Polynesia. And we should pray

God, for
ti to Ea
their m
increas
ministe
gable e
the per
favour
ers wit
vation
ble ex
under
errand
life of
which
God g
the cr
ing de
of triu
all the
Comm
the wo
a miss
ed by
ease, a
him, a
each
I can
ed the
sprea
is the
with
to the
on be
that
lands
carry
the is
Aft
pirc
the
ing l
most
the l
the h
sleep
hous
heav
exte
tan
of M
byte
cess
bliss

God, to make Aneiteum to Western Polynesia, what He has made Tahiti to Eastern Polynesia.. The London Missionary Society prosecuted their missions to the South Seas with great vigor, and from time to time increased the number of their first missionaries, by sending out ordained ministers; among whom was the celebrated Williams, who in his indefatigable exertions to spread the savour of Christ's precious name among the perishing heathen, built a vessel of about 80 tons, under the most unfavourable circumstances, and went from island to island, carrying teachers with him, till more than 200,000 Malayo-Polynesians heard of salvation from sin and from wrath by the cross; and he ceased not his noble exertions for the salvation of perishing souls, till he fell a martyr under the assassin's club, at Erromango, in the year 1839, while on an errand of mercy and love to its cruel inhabitants. Thus terminated the life of one of the most active and zealous missionaries of the cross, with which the Church and the world have been blessed for many years.

God grant, that his mantle may descend on many other missionaries of the cross till all nations shall hear the glad tidings of salvation, and being delivered from the thralldom of Satan—shout unto God with the voice of triumph, acknowledging the Lord Most High to be a great king over all the earth. The language of Mr. Williams, when pleading with the Committee of the London Missionary Society for a vessel to aid him in the work of missions, manifests in the clearest manner the true spirit of a missionary of the cross.—“A missionary,” he says, “was never designed by Jesus Christ to gather a hundred or two natives, and sit down at ease, as contented as if every sinner was saved, while thousands around him, and but a few miles off, are eating each other's flesh, and drinking each other's blood, living and dying without the gospel. For my part, I cannot content myself within the limits of a single reef.” He showed the Committee at this time how much more missionaries could do, in spreading the gospel, if they were better supplied with means. Such is the spirit that animated this noble herald of the cross, when he parted with his wife and family at Samoa, to carry the glad tidings of salvation to the Papuan race in the western isles of the Pacific, for whose salvation he had long and ardently desired to do something: and believing that the New Hebrides would, if possessed, be a key to the Loyalty Islands, New Caledonia, and New Guinea, he directed his course thither carrying twelve teachers with him, two of whom he left by the way at the island of Rotama, where there was an urgent demand for teachers.

After Mr. Williams arrived at the New Hebrides, no circumstance transpired which animated and cheered his soul more than his reception by the Tanese, with whom he left two teachers; for the next day after having left them, while on his way to Erromango, he said that he was almost determined to bring his family from Samoa, and come and live at the New Hebrides, that he might add the Tanese and other Papuans to the kingdom of Christ. But the night following he was very gloomy, sleep forsook his waking eyes, and the next day he exchanged the earthly house of his tabernacle, for an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. And with the valuable life of Mr. Williams, ceased to a great extent any successful effort to subdue this portion of the kingdom of Satan under the dominion of the Lord Jesus, till the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia sent to it the Rev. John Geddie, and the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland the Rev. John Inglis, who have been successful in raising the first Christian Church which has ever been established among the Papuan race; for the accomplishing of which, Mr.

Williams stained the stones of Erromango with his heart's blood, And surely God is now encouraging these Churches to go up and take possession of the land by giving them such an earnest already of a rich harvest of precious souls. And one important way in which they can still more effectually assist in the attainment of so great, so glorious, and so Christ-honouring an object, is, to furnish the means for establishing an efficient Seminary at Aneiteum or some other island in the New Hebrides, to educate a particular few for the work of the Lord, by means of the English language and literature, in which the natives make good proficiency. The London Missionary Society would, I have no doubt, assist in such a scheme. The want of such seminaries, is now generally felt to be a defect in foreign missionary operations, and vigorous efforts are being put forth by several active missionaries to supply this great defect. And can not the P. Church of Nova Scotia, and the P. P. Church of Scotland supply this defect in their missions to the New Hebrides?

The servants of Rome are now traversing the Pacific, desolating some portions of the Lord's vineyard, especially in Tahiti. The missionaries of the London M. Society, and the Wesleyan missionaries at the Feejee Islands are now feeling their powerful opposition: and let us not entertain the idea, that those who are now establishing themselves at New Caledonia will be indifferent to the progress of our missionaries. The South Sea islands have been given by the Pope to a section of his army in France to be added to the See of Rome; and to accomplish this, they would, if they possessed the power, dispossess all Protestant missionaries, who are an annoyance to them on account of their greater success in converting the natives. This Society, which seems pledged for the subjugation of Polynesia to the kingdom of the Pope, is very powerful, and therefore, is not to be viewed with cold indifference by the true friends of missions; but should be met by vigorous efforts on the part of all supporters of Christian missions to the Pacific, such as furnishing the means to establish efficient seminaries, so as to facilitate the progress of the missionaries of the cross, in subduing this portion of the world under the dominion of the Lord Jesus, ere it can be subjugated to the empire of the Pope of Rome. This Society's strength is quite apparent from the fact, that but a few years ago, they sent a vessel with a bishop and eighteen priests to the Solomon Islands: but the bishop having been killed by the natives at the island of Isabel, (as is supposed, for his rich dress and gay ornaments with which his person was decorated,) the priests abandoned this part of Polynesia for a more favourable field; and, that they should return to Aneiteum, is no stranger, than their entrance into Tahiti, after it had been Christianized by means of the London M. Society. The blessed gospel of the grace of God's dear Son, is the only regenerator of fallen humanity:—it has raised the Malayo-Polynesians from their savage and degraded condition, and is yet destined, in like manner to bless the Papuan race; and we should hasten to preach Christ unto them, ere they die, and are eternally undone.

Previous to the introduction of the gospel into the eastern islands of Polynesia, the natives were sunk into all the horrors of barbarism, such, as is the present condition of nearly all the Papuans, who people Western Polynesia. It was a common practice at some of the islands, to kidnap the females of neighbouring tribes for their savage feasts, whose flesh they highly prized on account of its tenderness. They also exchanged their children with one another on such occasions. At one of their feasts, the cook announced, among other things prepared—300 hu-

man bodies!! That Europeans, who are killed in their quarrels with the natives, are so disposed of, is a well known fact. There is however, a general belief among them in the disagreeable flavour of their flesh, which, together with a dread belief in the superiority of the stranger's god, operate favourably under the providence of God in preserving peaceable foreigners, in general, from this dreadful fate. Woman, was found degraded in every sense of the term, especially after marriage,—who henceforth became the slave of her unhappy lord, who gave her the hardest of the work to perform, and fed her with the worst of the food. It was sufficient for a woman to touch an offering for the gods, in order to pollute it; and therefore, great care was exercised by the servants of the priests, to seize their victims in the absence of female relatives.—Two of these instruments on a certain occasion called at an house in the absence of the landlord, and asked his wife for something to eat, which she readily gave them. They then inquired for her husband, and finding that he was planting bananas—went after him—clubbed him, and carried him away for an offering to the gods. His wife came out in time to witness the assassination of her husband, and the scene that ensued was truly affecting. Some of the natives on these occasions, manifest great tenderness and affection for their relatives, while others again appear to be the very personification of cold indifference. This man was a Christian; for, recovering from the first blow which he received, he spoke of his hope in Jesus. A foreigner by the name of Jackson, who resided at the Feejee Islands for several years, states, that he came to a settlement on a certain occasion where a heap of provisions was prepared, upon which was set a young woman fantastically ornamented. He being acquainted with their horrid practices at such times, knew well what she was placed there for, and resolved, that he would save her at any hazard, which resolution, he successfully carried into effect. Well may Professor Robinson say, that "it is to the gospel alone, woman is indebted for the privileges which she enjoys in Christian countries". The burying of relatives alive, was also another of their inhuman practices. A Feejee young man, was found by a stranger on a certain day folding up his mat on which he had been sleeping, going away to be buried, because he was sickly;—and therefore was afraid the women would call him "lila" (skeleton,) and laugh at him, which to the Feejeeans, is intolerable.—His father dug his grave, and refusing to hear his request to be strangled rather than smothered in a grave, forced him to get into it, after which he trampled the earth upon him till his groans were hushed in death. After the ceremony was over, his father, mother, and relatives bade him farewell, and returned home and made merry.

Their wars, were carried on with dreadful carnage, so that several islands were thereby nearly depopulated. On one island the natives were reduced to six or eight individuals, and they were then fighting with one another for the chieftainship. Prisoners taken in war, were generally slain for their flesh, or cruelly treated by their victors. Jackson says, that while he was at the Feejee Islands, he saw forty prisoners lashed with banana-trees, and used as rollers for launching canoes.—Their cries and piercing shrieks, which could be heard for half a mile, were entirely drowned by the howling song and demon-like laugh of their cruel victors. When the launching was over, some of the poor fellows were found in violent convulsions, while others were lying with their entrails completely crushed out—all expiring in dreadful agony. One of the natives who

heard their loud cries and agonizing groans said, "he wished that he was born a white man, —that he was a white man inside, altho' a Feegeean outside."

Such, was the condition of the Malayo-Polynesians, previous to the introduction of the gospel among them by the London M. Society, aided by the noble efforts of the Wesleyans at the Friendly Islands: and such, is the condition of the Papuans, in the midst of whom, a missionary now at the New Hebrides, may truly exclaim in the language of Mr. Williams:—"Thousands all around, and but a few miles off, are eating each other's flesh, and drinking each other's blood, living and dying without the gospel." That this race, is sunk into all the horrors of cannibalism and brutal degradation, is well attested by the late visits of Captain Erskine to Western Polynesia, who has been instrumental in carrying away from Tanna one of these run-agate sailors, who are sometimes the cause of the banishment and death of missionaries. But a few years ago, the crews of two vessels—the Cape Packet, and the British Sovereign, were massacred at Vata in the New Hebrides; and also several vessel's crews at Maree of the Loyalty Islands, whose bodies were seized and carried off by the voracious cannibals. But this is not the worst of their condition:—"it is their living and dying without the gospel", which renders their present state so dreadful, and their future prospects so awfully dark and gloomy. "Where no vision is, the people perish".—Perish! Ah, there is a depth of meaning in this word, which we cannot comprehend, when applied to the immortal soul!! The destruction of one soul in hell forever, implies more than all the sufferings of fretting leprosies, pestilential plagues, or the battle field with its bloody carnage—more—infinitely more than all the present sufferings of fallen humanity, if they could be concentrated in the person of one sufferer. All these things on this side of the prison of lost spirits, are but the "shadows of the doors of death." And oh, how fearful must be the inside of those portals, which send forth such dismal shadows this side of the SECOND DEATH!! If the shadows of this death be so dark in all the present sufferings of perishing souls, what must the reality be, but the blackness of darkness forever? "To shadow forth the horrors of a lost soul", says the Rev. Mr. Hall, "it would not suffice for the sun to veil his face, and the moon her brightness, or to cover the ocean with mourning, or the heavens with sackcloth; nor were all nature to become vocal, would it be possible for her to utter a groan too deep, or a cry too piercing to furnish an adequate idea of the magnitude, and extent of such a catastrophe". The Lord from heaven spake on this awful theme as on other subjects, "as never man spake".—He spake of the gnashing of teeth—the never dying worm—thirstings and torments of a lost soul in the flames,—and the unquenchable fire, when He set forth the horrors of a lost soul: and the saving of perishing sinners from going down to the pit—redeemed to the glory of God—is, an object worthy of His gracious mission into our world. How great—exceeding great then, must be the salvation of one soul viewed in light of eternity!! James says, "that he who converteth a sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins". The angels do not look upon such an event as this, with as much cold indifference as we too often do; for when the glad tidings of the deliverance of one soul from the dominion of sin and Satan, and its return to God, is made known to them, there is a shout of thanksgivings.

to God for the victory to be heard in His royal city:—"Joy abounds in paradise among the hosts of heaven"

The blessed gospel is the only remedy to meet the desperate case of the heathen, and we should make haste to preach Christ unto them, before they are lost forever. Satan's strong holds in Eastern Polynesia have already fallen before the power of the gospel, and the prey has been taken from the mighty, and the lawful captives delivered. But it is far otherwise yet, as we have seen, in Western Polynesia : there he reigns almost triumphantly,—only one of his forts being yet taken,—viz. Aneiteum, over which, the banner of the cross now floats most gloriously in honour of king Jesus, by whose Spirit rendering effectual the weapons of His servants warfare, it has been so victoriously taken. Altho' the attempt to take the enemy's citadel at Tana has hitherto proved unsuccessful, and some soldiers of the cross have fallen in the cause of Jesus ; yet there is no cause to despair.—This island, Erromango, and other strong holds of Satan in the New Hebrides, will soon fall before the mighty power of the gospel. We have much to encourage us in the great work of foreign missions in which we are engaged.—Our Allies in this warfare, the London M. Society, and the R. Presbyterian Church of Scotland, are noble champions of the truth, and by the grace of God, will not rest, till the Prince of darkness is driven from his fortified possessions in this part of his empire with a shout triumphant victory. But, above all other allies in this great work, is the Lord Jesus Christ, who has graciously promised, in a special manner to be with those, whose office, and duty it is to preach the gospel to the whole world, to help them in subduing the kingdoms of this world to the sceptre of Jesus the king of Zion. What voice is this I hear, reechoing from Olive's sacred mount in heavenly accents and consoling strains, to cheer the soldiers of the cross in their arduous work, as the Lord ascended up on high amid the loud acclamations of attending angels, who cry one to another, "Lift up your heads, O ye gates ; and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors ; and the king of glory shall come in"—It is the voice of Jesus to His servants, whom He requires to preach the gospel to every creature, saying, as none but the lovely and loving Jesus could say, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world". Lo, I am with you, when troubles rise and tempests frown, as a very present source of support and defence ; "as rivers of water in a dry place ; as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land". Lo, I your Saviour am with you in all your marchings in the wilderness, as "a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night", to lead you to safety and to victory. Lo, I am with you by my almighty and quickening Spirit, to give omnipotent force to the arrows of my quiver, to pierce the sinners heart in forcing their way through the granite fortifications of the unbelieving heart ; for when the Spirit is come "He will convince the world of sin, &c". Fear not, for lo, I—the I AM—am with you,—my Spirit promised shall be with you in genial showers, to cause my doctrine from your lips to distil as the rain, and my speech as the dew, until the wilderness and solitary places of the earth—desolated by sin—"shall be glad for you ; and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose :—it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing". May the good Lord hasten the time, when many of the isles of Western Polynesia which are now waiting for the law of the Lord, shall thus, be as a well watered garden which the Lord has blessed—all in flower with the off-shoots of the rose

of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys; and all the glory shall be to Him
who has said, Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.
Amen.

From Greenland's icy mountains,
From India's coral strand,
Where Afric's sunny fountains
Roll down their golden sand;
From many an ancient river,
From many a palmy plain,
They call us to deliver
Their land from error's chain

What though the spicy breezes
Blow soft o'er Ceylon's isle;
Though every prospect pleases,
And only man is vile;
In vain, with lavish kindness,
The gifts of God are strown:
The heathen, in their blindness,
Bow down to wood and stone.

Shall we, whose souls are lighted
By wisdom from on high;
Shall we, to man benighted,
The lamp of life deny?—
Salvation, O salvation!
The joyful sound proclaim,
Till each remotest nation
Has learnt Messiah's name.

Waft, waft, ye winds, His story,
And you, ye waters, roll,
Till, like a sea of glory,
It spreads from pole to pole:
Till o'er our ransom'd nature,
The Lamb for sinners slain,
Redeemer, King, Creator,
In bliss returns to reign.

This Tract has been prepared and is published by George N. Gordon,
as an exercise in printing while preparing for missionary service in W.
Polyaesia.

Halifax N. S., April 3, 1855.

Gay
L'AMPHIL
Syr
Stee

Gaylord
PAMPHLET BINDER
Syracuse, N. Y.
Stockton, Calif.

Gaylord
PAMPHLET BINDER
Syracuse, N. Y.
Stockton, Calif.